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Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 8 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 8 July 1991 addressed to you by His Excellency Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman KORUTURK
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 July 1991 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by Mr. Andreas Mavrommatis, the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, during the meeting of the Security Council on 14 June 1991. At that meeting, Mr. Mavrommatis has stated, on the subject of the equality of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities, "Equality is in the negotiating process in so far as the intercommunal talks are concerned, because you cannot equate a country with a community - there is no doubt about it - wherever that may be taking place."

I wish to recall that the political equality of the two communities was what defined the fundamental character of the state of affairs created in 1960. The equality principle is still the essential element of a future federal solution. Furthermore, the basis of the negotiating process and of Your Excellency's mission of good offices is also the equality of the two sides. These facts were confirmed in your report to the Security Council dated 8 March 1990, in which you have stated that "the political equality of the two communities in, and the bi-communal nature of, the federation need to be acknowledged".

Security Council resolution 649 (1990), which was adopted consequently, also reiterated the equality of the two sides.

The equality of the two sides in the negotiating process as well as in a future solution was also reconfirmed in your subsequent reports to the Security Council on your mission of good offices. Recently, in your report of 27 March 1991, you have stated the following:

> "My mission of good offices in Cyprus is with the two communities: the two communities participate on an equal footing in the process of defining the solution to the Cyprus problem; and the specifics of the solution must be approved by both communities. Cyprus is the common home of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities whose relationship is not one of majority and minority, but one of two communities in Cyprus. The solution to the Cyprus problem is one State comprising two politically equal communities."

Being only the last in a series of similar statements by Greek Cypriot leaders and officials on the subject of political equality, the declaration by Mr. Mavrommatis must surely be taken to represent the studied position of the Greek Cypriot administration on this vital and primary issue. The rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the principle of equality is, therefore, nothing less than a total and frontal challenge to both the very nature of the relationship of the two sides in the island, long established and universally accepted, and the current efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement in accordance with

Security Council resolution 649 (1990). This confirms the worst fears of my Government that the Greek Cypriots are not truly seeking a political partnership with the Turkish Cypriots, but are merely trying to impose their administration on the Turkish Cypriots. It also amounts to a violation of Security Council resolution 649 (1990) in all its aspects.

Unless rectified by a clear-cut confirmation of the principle of the political equality of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides, this setback, which is of a fundamental character, will exercise a negative, comprehensive and lasting impact on the outcome of the very critical contacts and efforts Your Excellency envisages for the period ahead.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus